

Message Text

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ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-16 EUR-25 EA-11 ISO-00 CIAE-00

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OECD PARIS

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AMEMBASSY TOKYO

AMEMBASSY COPENHAGEN

AMEMBASSY OSLO

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

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AMEMBASSY CARACAS

AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

AMEMBASSY JIDDA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

AMEMBASSY LUXEMBOURG

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PASS USINT ALGIERS

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG

SUBJECT: SELECTED EDITORIAL COMMENT ON OIL

1. FOLLOWING ARE SUMMARIES OF NUMEROUS EDITORIALS AND COMMENTARIES ON OIL THAT HAVE APPEARED IN RECENT EDITIONS OF KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL AND TEHRAN JOURNAL WHICH WE ARE REPORTING AT SOME LENGTH TO GIVE FLAVOR OF LOCAL OPINION GENERATED BY TEHRAN OPEC MEETING.

2. ALI REZA JAHANSHAH, IN ARTICLE ON ARRIVAL OF OIL MINISTERS IN TEHRAN IN DEC 22 TEHRAN JOURNAL (TJ) WRITES THAT WHEN ASKED WHETHER WEST WOULD AGREE TO GUARANTEE UNINTERRUPTED SUPPLY OF EXPORTS TO OIL PRODUCERS AT FIXED PRICE IN RELATION TO OIL, AMOUEGAR SAID "ONLY WAY THIS WOULD WORK WOULD BE THROUGH AGREEMENT BETWEEN OPEC AND OECD, WHOSE MEMBERS SUPPLY MOST OF THE GOODS OPEC MEMBERS IMPORT, AND THAT SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD SOLVE MANY PROBLEMS."

3. AMIR TAHERI WHO IS LEADING IRANIAN JOURNALIST AND FREQUENT SPOKESMAN FOR GOI, IN DECEMBER 22 KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL (KI), WRITES IN APPARENTLY OFFICIALLY INSPIRED COLUMN ENTITLED "THE GREAT OIL DEBATE" THAT SOME CONSUMERS SEE TEHRAN OPEC MEETING AS CLOAK-AND-DAGGER CONSPIRACY THREATENING END TO "OIL-LUBRICATED CIVILIZATION THAT HAS CREATED HITHERTO UNKNOWN WEALTH," AND FEEL THAT "OIL PRODUCING NATIONS ARE THUS HOLDING THE WHOLE OF 'THE CIVILIZED WORLD' TO RANSOM," WHILE SOME PRODUCERS MAY SEE MEETING AS "GATHERING OF REPRESENTATIVES OF COUNTRIES THAT HAVE LONG SUFFERED BRUTAL EXPLOITATION," BECAUSE ONLY RECENTLY HAVE THEY HAD "ANY CLEAR VIEW OF THE VALUE OF THEIR RESOURCES, AND THE VERY IDEA OF THESE COUNTRIES HAVING THE REAL SAY IN DECIDING THE FATE OF THEIR CHIEF INDUSTRY IS STILL SO NEW AS TO BE UNBEARABLY 'REVOLUTIONARY.'" TAHERI COMMENTS THAT "THE TRUE PICTURE, NO DOUBT, IS ONE THAT, WHILE TAKING SOME LINES FROM BOTH ACCOUNTS, IS FAR FROM BEING ALARMIST."

4. WHILE THE INDUSTRIAL OIL CONSUMERS, WHO "HAVE BEEN ABLE TO CREATE AN IMPRESSIVE POWER-BASE ECONOMICALLY, POLITICALLY AND MILITARILY LARGELY THANKS TO FUEL SECURED AT RIDICULOUSLY LOW UNCLASSIFIED

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PRICES," AND WHO HOLD AN OLIGOPOLY ON INDUSTRIAL GOODS, ARGUE THAT "OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES, BEING SMALL AND TECHNICALLY BACKWARD, ARE UNABLE TO MAKE GOOD USE OF (THEIR) GROWING FINANCIAL RESOURCES," THEY STILL HAVE A LONG WAY TO GO TO ASSURE THEMSELVES A STANDARD OF LIVING COMPARABLE TO THAT OF EVEN THE POOREST INDUSTRIAL NATIONS. THE OIL EXPORTERS "ACCEPT THE BASIC RULES OF CAPITALISM IN THE INTERNATIONAL MARKET AND SEE "NO REASON TO ACCEPT ARTIFICIALLY LOW PRICES...IF WE LIVE IN A COMPETITIVE WORLD WE SHOULD, THEREFORE, ELIMINATE ALL BARRIERS TO FREE COMPETITION."

5. OPEC, SAYS TAHERI, DID NOT DEVISE THIS "LAW-OF-THE-JUNGLE" PHILOSOPHY AND SYSTEM. "OTHER OPTIONS SHOULD BE EXPLORED...TO BE-

LIEVE THAT THE OLD TUNE COULD CONTINUE AD INFINITUM IS...TO MUCH.
 "ONE COULD WORK OUT A NEW INTERNATIONAL SYSTEM IN WHICH BEGGARING
 ONE'S NEIGHBOR WOULD NO LONGER BE ACCEPTED AS A FACT OF LIFE. AND
 THE OPEC STATES HAVE...PROVED THEIR SINCERE DESIRE TO COOPERATE IN
 SUCH AN ENDEAVOR. FOR YEARS THEY WERE KNOCKING ON THE DOOR OF THE
 RICH-NATIONS' CLUB, ASKING TO BE HEARD. INSTEAD, APOLOGISTS FROM
 THE LANDS OF MILK-AND-HONEY DEVELOPED THEORIES SUCH AS 'THE
 THIRD WORLD' AND 'THE NORTH-SOUTH RIFT' IN ORDER TO RATIONALISE AN
 ARTIFICIAL SITUATION, MAKING IT APPEAR AS SOMETHING PERMANENT AND
 UNTOUCHABLE. THE OIL EXPORTING NATIONS HAVE KNOWN THE FACTS FOR
 MANY YEARS. THEY HAVE KNOWN, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT OIL-IMPORTING
 GOVERNMENTS DRAW AS MUCH AS 10 TIMES FROM EACH BARREL OF OIL AS
 DO...OPEC MEMBERS. THEY ALSO KNOW THAT THE NOTORIOUS POLICY OF
 'PRICE STABILISATION' APPLIED TO OIL HAS NEVER BEEN CONSIDERED
 IN THE CASE OF OTHER COMMODITIES. AN IRANIAN FARMER...IS TODAY
 PAYING SOME 20 TIMES MORE FOR A TRACTOR THAN HE DID A DECADE AGO.
 THE PRICE OF IRANIAN OIL HOWEVER,...ACTUALLY DROPPED IN THE '50S
 AND THE '60S. THIS FALL IN PRICES WAS NOT CAUSED BY SUPPLY-AND-
 DEMAND VAGARIES. IT WAS CONTRIVED AND IMPOSED BY A FEW GIANT
 OIL COMPANIES. IT WOULD BE WRONG TO BELIEVE THAT THIS ARTIFICIAL
 SYSTEM BENEFITED THE PEOPLES OF THE COUNTRIES BUYING OIL. THE
 AVERAGE WEST EUROPEAN OR A JAPANESE CITIZEN CONTINUED TO PAY IN-
 CREASINGLY HIGH PRICES."

6. IT IS NOW TIME, SAYS TAHERI, "TO CONCEIVE OF THE WORLD
 AS A SINGLE ENTITY IN WHICH PROBLEMS AND PROMISES SHOULD BE SHARED
 EQUALLY. ONCE THIS IS ACCEPTED, NO ONE WOULD HAVE ANY INTEREST IN
 PROMOTING AN INTERNATIONAL CIVIL WAR IN WHICH THE ARMS USED WILL BE
 UNCLASSIFIED

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OIL AND INDUSTRIAL GOODS RESPECTIVELY...IRAN, FOR EXAMPLE, HAS
 NO INTEREST IN CREATING A SITUATION SIMILAR TO THAT OF BRITAIN IN
 THE LATE '50S IN WHICH THE WAGE-PRICE SPIRAL FORCED THE NATION TO
 THE BRINK OF BANKRUPTCY. WE DO NOT WANT TO AMASS ABSTRACT WEALTH.
 RATHER, WE WISH TO DEVELOP OUR INDUSTRIES, IMPROVE THE LIVES OF OUR
 PEOPLE AND BECOME A MORE INFLUENTIAL MEMBER OF THE WORLD COMMUNITY.
 WE SPEND ALL OF OUR OIL INCOME AND MORE ON PURCHASING INDUSTRIAL
 GOODS AND TECHNOLOGY FROM THE REST OF THE WORLD. THE RICHER WE
 BECOME, THE BETTER WE WILL BE AS CUSTOMERS AND TRADE PARTNERS.
 THE LOGIC OF THE SITUATION DEMANDS THAT THE WHOLE WORLD SHOULD HAVE
 A FRESH LOOK AT THE VERY IDEA OF GROWTH. IF NOT SHARED IN A FAIRER
 MANNER, GROWTH COULD BE AS DANGEROUS AS CANCER. ONE POSITIVE
 RESULT OF THE SO CALLED 'ENERGY CRISIS' IS THAT MANY PEOPLE
 IN THE WORLD HAVE LEARNED TO APPRECIATE THE REAL VALUE OF OIL.
 OIL IS NO LONGER SOMETHING ONE CONSUMES OR, WORSE, WASTES, WITHOUT
 GIVING IT A SECOND THOUGHT.

7. THE TEHRAN MEETING, TAHERI WRITES, SHOULD CREATE NEITHER
 PANIC NOR XENOPHOBIC SENTIMENTS. "THE WORLD IS SUFFERING FROM A
 SERIOUS MALAISE CAUSED BY EXCLUSIVE CLUBS AND NARROW-MINDED SELF-
 INTEREST. THE SO-CALLED 'ENERGY-CRISIS' IS BUT ONE MANIFESTATION
 OF THIS MALAISE. TO TRY AND READ MORE THAN THIS INTO WHAT IS A

BASICALLY SIMPLE ISSUE WOULD BE BOTH DANGEROUS AND IRRESPONSIBLE. THE MINISTERS WHO ARE MEETING IN TEHRAN, ARE, THEREFORE, NEITHER THE CONSPIRATORS SOME PEOPLE BELIEVE NOR THE RING-LEADERS OF A GREAT REBELLION OF THE 'THIRD WORLD' MASSES. THEY ARE LOGICAL MEN SEEKING A REASONABLE SOLUTION TO A PROBLEM THAT CONCERNS US ALL -- IN TEHRAN AS WELL AS IN PARIS OR BANGKOK. WHAT IS SURE IS THAT A NEW SYSTEM OF FIXING OIL PRICES WILL BE WORKED OUT. THE COMPANIES HAVE FAILED TO PRODUCE AN ALTERNATIVE. THE GOVERNMENTS OF IMPORTING NATIONS HAVE NOT GONE BEYOND A FEW SUPERFICIAL OBSERVATIONS, AND THE PRESENT SITUATION IS UNTENABLE. THUS THE OPEC IS NOT ONLY RIGHT IN SEEKING A SOLUTION BUT IS ALSO MORALLY BOUND TO DO SO. AT THE SAME TIME IT IS PERFECTLY CLEAR THAT WE DO NOT WANT TO FORCE OUR CUSTOMERS IN THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD INTO BANKRUPTCY. NOR DO WE WISH TO ADD TO THE BURDEN OF DEVELOPING NATIONS LACKING OIL RESOURCES OF THEIR WON."

8. FORMER TJ EDITOR VAHE PETROSSIAN, IN DEC 23 TJ COLUMN, NOTES THAT "A GREAT SHIFT IN THE BALANCE OF POWER BETWEEN THE DEVELOPING RAW MATERIALS PRODUCERS...AND THE INDUSTRIAL GIANTS IS INDEED IN UNCLASSIFIED

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PROGRESS AND THINGS WILL NOT BE THE SAME EVER AGAIN." BUT, ASKS PETROSSIAN, WILL THE PRODUCERS RECOGNIZE "THE NEW REALITY THAT USE OF OIL AS A POLITICAL WEAPONS HAS BROUGHT ABOUT?....THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIAL GIANTS HAVE SEEN WHAT AMOUNTS TO THEIR DAILY BREAD BEING WITHHELD FROM THEIR VORACIOUS BELLIES. THAT IS A CHALLENGE TO THEIR VERY EXISTENCE--A CHALLENGE ONLY THE FOOLISH

NOTE BY OC/T: NOT PASSED ALGIERS.

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COULD EXPECT THEM TO IGNORE. WITH THE TURN OF A TAP THE WEST AND JAPAN HAVE BEEN BROUGHT TO THEIR KNEES....IT IS A SCENE UNIMAGINABLE ONLY A FEW SHORT MONTHS AGO. IT IS ALSO A SCENE HARD TO CONJURE UP FOR WHEN THE INDUSTRIAL GIANTS RECOVER FROM THE SHOCK AND USE ALL THEIR NOT INCONSIDERABLE RESOURCES TOWARD ENSURING THEY CAN NEVER BE BROUGHT DOWN SO EASILY AGAIN.

9. "THE 'WEST', WHEN PRESSED, CAN PERFORM MIRACLES...IS IT REASONABLE TO EXPECT THAT THIS CANNOT BE DONE WITH ENERGY RESOURCES? PERHAPS THE WEST CANNOT TELESCOPE THE 20 TO 30 YEARS ESTIMATE FOR THE DISCOVERY OF A NEW VIABLE ENERGY SOURCE INTO, LET US SAY, FIVE YEARS; BUT IT WOULD SEEM THE OIL EXPORTING NATIONS SHOULD CONSIDER IT EXTREMELY RISKY TO ASSUME THAT IT CANNOT...IT IS NOT REASONABLE TO EXPECT THE INDUSTRIAL POWERS TO BELIEVE THAT OIL, ONCE HONED AS A POLITICAL WEAPON, WILL MAGICALLY REVERT TO ITS FORMER DRAB SELF AS AN CONOMIC SLAVE...FOR THE DEVELOPED WORLD, OIL THIS YEAR BECAME THE DEVIL WHICH MUST BE EXORCISED.

10. "AS FAR AS THE MIDDLE EAST'S OIL EXPORTERS ARE CONCERNED OIL WAS A DIMINISHING ASSET ANYWAY WHOSE DEPLETION WAS ASSUMING ALARMING PROPORTIONS. HOWEVER, WHAT THEY MAY NOW BE CALLED UPON TO DO IS TO DRASTICALLY REVISE THEIR STIMATE DOWN FROM 30 YEARS TO 10--PERHAPS EVEN LESS. IT IS NOT THAT RESERVES WILL RUN OUT SO QUICKLY, BUT THAT THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS MAY VERY SOON NOT WANT IT

ANYMORE--CERTAINLY NOT IN SIZEABLE QUANTITIES. THE PROJECTION THAT OIL AS ENERGY MAY FOR ALL PRACTICAL PURPOSES BE DEAD BEFORE THE DECADE IS OUT MAY SEEM FAR-FETCHED. SO, FOR THAT MATTER, WOULD THE PRICES WE ARE GETTING NOW HAVE SEEMED A FEW MONTHS AGO...THOSE COUNTRIES WHO HAVE AMBITIONS OF BECOMING INDUSTRIALLY DEVELOPED AND A FORCE TO BE RECKONED WITH, THEY WILL HAVE TO FIGURATELY DROP EVERYTHING AND GO ON A CRASH PROGRAM OF INDUSTRIALIZATION WHILE THEY CAN STILL AFFORD IT. THIS WOULD NO DOUBT MEAN SELLING AS MUCH OIL AS IS PRACTICAL WHILE THE MARKET BELONGS TO THE SELLERS. OTHER ALTERNATIVES INCLUDE A MASSIVE DIVERSION OF OIL INTO PETROCHEMICALS WHICH PROMOTE A LONGER LIFE-SPAN AND A MORE PERMANENT DEMAND.

11. "NOT UNEXPECTEDLY IRAN IS MOVING IN ALL THESE DIRECTIONS IN WHAT SEEMS TO BE A DELIBERATE POLICY DECISION ACCOUNTING FOR A UNCLASSIFIED

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POSSIBLE EARLY DISAPPEARANCE OF OIL AS ENERGY...THE OIL PRODUCERS ARE FINALLY BEGINNING TO GET THEIR JUST SHARE AFTER YEARS OF EXPLOITATION; BUT THIS MAY AT THE SAME TIME VERY WELL BE THE LAST CHANCE FOR OIL AS THE GREAT GOD OF ENERGY, AND THE OIL COUNTRIES HAD BETTER GRAB IT AS BEST AND IN AS DELIBERATE A MANNER AS THEY CAN."

12. DEC 23 KI CARRIED COLUMN ON EDITORIAL PAGE ENTITLED "OPEC MINISTERS EXPRESS OPTIMISTIC VIEWS". COLUMN QUOTES GOI FINMIN AMOUZEGAR AS FOLLOWS: "RATHER THAN TAXING THE INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES THE EUROPEAN GOVERNMENTS TAX THE CONSUMERS. IN SOME EUROPEAN COUNTRIES, UP TO 80 PERCENT OF THE RETAIL PRICE WHICH THE CUSTOMER PAYS FOR OIL GOES TO THE TREASURY IN THE FORM OF TAXATION ONE WAY OR THE OTHER. THEY CANNOT--THEY MUSTNOT--ACCUSE US OF CAUSING INFLATION THROUGH PRICE INCREASES. IF THEY ARE REALLY CONCERNED ABOUT INFLATION THEY MUST STOP ADDING TO IT BY HEAVY LEVIES ON OIL CONSUMPTION." AMOUZEGAR IS FURTHER QUOTED AS SAYING, "WE HAVE DIVORCED POLITICS FROM OIL IN OUR OPEC MEETING. OUR ECONOMIC EXPERTS HAVE PREPARED A SET OF CRITERIA FOR US TO EVALUATE MARKET POSITION. WE ARE SURVEYING ECONOMIC FACTORS, MARKET SITUATION AND WORLD COMMODITY TRENDS." COLUMN STATES THAT "ARAB OIL MINISTERS OF THE PG REGION WERE UNANIMOUS IN THEIR ASSERTION THAT OPEC WAS NOT OUT TO RUIN THE WORLD ECONOMY OR THE ECONOMY OF THE INDUSTRIAL NATIONS FOR THAT MATTER. ALL OF THE OPEC MEMBERS WERE THEMSELVES PART OF THE WORLD ECONOMY AND DID NOT WISH TO RUIN IT BECAUSE THAT WOULD UNDERMINE THEIR OWN POSITION."

13. EDITORIAL IN TJ OF DEC 24, ENTITLED "OIL IS TOO PRECIOUS" STATES THAT "THE REACTION IN THE WEST TO THE ANNOUNCED PRICE INCREASE BY PG OIL PRODUCERS WAS NOT UNEXPECTED AND UNFORTUNATELY ILLUSTRATES THE INABILITY OF MOST INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO ACCEPT TO REALITIES OF TODAY'S ENERGY SITUATION...(THE SHAH), IN HIS PRESS CONFERENCE YESTERDAY, ADVISED THE WORLD'S INDUSTRIALIZED NATIONS TO CONCENTRATE ON DEVELOPING NEW ENERGY SOURCES. HE SAID THAT OIL WAS TOO PRECIOUS AND LIMITED TO WASTE ON HEATING HOMES AND PRODUCING ELECTRICITY...HE ALSO TOLD THE WORLD'S CONSUMING

NATIONS THAT THE ERA OF CHEAP OIL HAD COME TO AN END AND THEY WOULD HAVE TO WORK HARDER IF THEY WISHED TO MAINTAIN THEIR PRESENT LEVEL OF PROSPERITY. BECAUSE OF ITS VALUE TODAY, THE PRODUCERS OF OIL HAD TO FIND A REAL PRICE FOR IT...AND, LOGICALLY, THE SEARCH FOR A REAL PRICE TOOK INTO ACCOUNT THE PRICE OF OTHER AVAILABLE ENERGY RESOURCES AND THE SUPERIORITY OF OIL IN THE SENSE THAT SO UNCLASSIFIED

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MANY OTHER PRODUCTS CAN BE DERIVED FROM IT, ITS EASE OF TRANSPORTATION AND RETOZED...#TO PREVENT ANY REAL PRICE INCREASES, THE MOST

LOGICAL MOVE TODAY WOULD BE FOR GOVERNMENTS TO DECREASE THEIR TAXES ON OIL AND MAKE CERTAIN THAT THE PROFITS GOING INTO THE POCKETS OF THE OIL COMPANIES ARE REASONABLE AND JUSTIFIED.

14. "IF THE GOVERNMENTS REALIZE THIS POINT...THEY WILL BE LESS LIKELY TO FEEL THERE IS A CONSPIRACY TO DESTROY THEIR ECONOMY BY THE OIL PRODUCERS. THIS IS A POINT MADE BY THE MONARCH WHEN HE SAID THAT THERE IS NO SUCH INTENTION AS THERE WOULD BE NOTHING WITH WHICH TO REPLACE INDUSTRIALIZED WESTERN STATES. AND...BY DESTROYING THESE ECONOMIES...WHERE WOULD THE DEVELOPING NATIONS GET THE EQUIPMENT AND TECHNICAL KNOW-HOW TO CONTINUE THEIR DEVELOPMENT PLANS? THE OIL PRODUCERS ARE WILLING TO SIT DOWN WITH THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES TO WORK OUT A PRICE THAT IS FAIR AND WHICH WILL INDICATE THE TRUE VALUE OF OIL IN TODAY'S WORLD. SUCH A DISCUSSION MIGHT EVEN ASSIST THE INDUSTRIALIZED COUNTRIES TO THINK IN TERMS OF OTHER ENERGY SOURCES LEAVING OIL FOR THOSE SECTORS OF THE ECONOMY WHICH NO OTHER ENERGY SOURCE COULD SATISFY, LIKE PETROCHEMICALS...THE QUESTION THAT THE CONSUMING COUNTRIES SHOULD BE STUDYING TODAY IS NOT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE NOW THAT OIL IS BEING SOLD AT \$7 A BARREL BY THE PRODUCING COUNTRIES, BUT WHAT SHOULD BE DONE IN THE LONG RUN TO CONSERVE THIS PRECIOUS ENERGY SOURCE AND MEET THE FUEL NEEDS OF SOCIETY IN GENERAL."

15. EDITORIAL "A FARSIGHTEDNESS OF OIL" IN DEC 24 KI STRESSES SHAH'S OFFER OF OPEC-OECD COOPERATION: "COMBINED FORCES OF THE TWO ORGANIZATIONS CAN PUT AN END TO THE CURRENT RUMOR IN THE WORLD ECONOMY--A SITUATION WHICH IS IN NO COUNTRY'S INTERESTS. GIVEN GOODWILL AND ENLIGHTENED SELF-INTEREST, IT IS NOT DIFFICULT FOR THE OECD MEMBERS TO INITIATE SUCH COOPERATION."

16. TJ DEC 25 EDITORIAL "ALTERNATE ENERGY SOURCES" SINGLES OUT SHAH'S STATEMENT IN DEC 23 PRESS CONFERENCE TO EFFECT THAT IRAN TOO SHOULD SHIFT TO ALTERNATE SOURCES OF ENERGY AND SAYS THAT IRAN, UNDER ORDERS ALREADY ISSUED BY SHAH, WILL BEGIN TO ESTABLISH A "NUCLEAR POWER NETWORK...IT WILL NOT BE LONG BEFORE IRAN'S FIRST NUCLEAR GENERATING STATION IS BUILT AND OPERATING."

17. "ECONOMIC FACTS OF LIFE", LEAD KI EDITORIAL OF DEC 26 STATES: UNCLASSIFIED

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"NOBODY LIKES TO LOSE AN ADVANTAGE NO MATTER HOW IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OBTAINED. REACTION OF THE INDUSTRIAL WORLD TO THE TEHRAN MEETING THIS WEEK MUST BE SEEN IN THIS LIGHT. THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAVE LOST THE ADVANTAGE OF HAVING ACCESS TO CHEAP SOURCES OF ENERGY AND NATURALLY THEY RESENT THIS DEVELOPMENT...THE INDUSTRIAL COUNTRIES HAD BASED ALL CALCULATIONS FOR THE GROWTH OF THEIR ECONOMY, FOR THE FUTURE OF THEIR REGIONAL ECONOMIC GROUPINGS AND FOR THE METHODS OF ACHIEVING MONETARY UNITY ON ARTIFICIALLY PRICED SOURCES OF ENERGY...THEY HOPED THE OIL-EXPORTING COUNTRIES WOULD CONTINUE TO SUBSIDIZE THE WEST'S ECONOMY. BUT THE TEHRAN CONFERENCE PUT AN END TO SUCH WISHFUL THINKING..AFTER THE AFTER THE MONARCH'S PRESS CONFERENCE ON SUNDAY, THE INTERNATIONAL OIL COMPANIES AND THEIR ALLIES REALIZED THEY COULD NO LONGER FIND SCAPEGOATS FOR THE BASIC WEAKNESSES IN THEIR OWN ECONOMIES. THE

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